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GENERAL COUNSEL'S OPINION NUMBER 59-2, DATED 19 JANUARY 1959

Reimbursement for dependent travel which is not completed to employee's foreign PCS point is contingent on an administrative finding that the travel was originally undertaken to fulfill the statutory purpose of accompanying the employee to his foreign post of duty.

TO FINANCE DIVISION/OPERATIONS & LIAISON BRANCH

1. You have requested our opinion as to whether or not an employee's dependent "must actually arrive at the sponsor's PCS point before the travel expenses can be allowed." As we understand it, while Mr. L. performed PCS travel from headquarters ☐ by way ☐ accompanied by his wife and daughter, age 14, his daughter, age 17, left the party at the latter point and returned to the United States at the employee's expense. In these circumstances, it is questioned whether in view of the 17 year old's failure to complete the entire journey the expense of her travel from headquarters ☐ may be charged to the Government.

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3. Thus, whether Mr. L. may be reimbursed is dependent on whether his daughter's travel was undertaken to fulfill the statutory purpose indicated. We believe that a decision on this issue is properly to be made by the cognizant authorizing official, on the basis of all the particular facts and circumstances. In our opinion, while terminating the journey upon arrival at such a tourist mecca ☐ is not conclusive against the employee here, it does require that he establish the bona fides of the travel motive.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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